

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

AID-05 ITF-05 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /089 W

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R 300506Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5586

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

CINCPAC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2647

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AS, VS, VN, PINT, PFOR

SUBJ: HANOI SAIGON CABLES: EDITORIAL COMMENT

REF: A. CANBERRA 2614

B. CANBERRA 2645

C. CANBERRA 2646

1. IN A 29 APRIL EDITORIAL ENTITLED A GOVERNMENT WE CANNOT TRUST, THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD STATES: QTE. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS LIED TO PARLIAMENT. HE HAS DECEIVED THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE. HE HAS ABUSED THEIR TRUST IN HIM. CONTRARY TO AN ASSURANCE HE GAVE TO PARLIAMENT THIS MONTH ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT OF THE HANOI GOVERNMENT AND THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT, ONLY A WEEK EARLIER HE HAD GIVEN TO HANOI AND TO THE VIETCONG'S SELF-STYLED PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WHAT AMOUNTS TO THE MORAL SUPPORT OF AUSTRALIA IN THE WAR OF COMMUNIST EXPANSION WHICH THEY ARE WAGING IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

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2. QTE. HIS DUPLICITY HAS BEEN DAMNINGLY EXPOSED BY THE

PUBLICATION (UNAUTHORIZED) OF SECRET CABLED INSTRUCTIONS SENT BY MR. WHITLAM TO OUR AMBASSADORS IN HANOI AND SAIGON. THEIR PUBLICATION BRINGS INTO THE OPEN THE GRAVEST POLITICAL SCANDAL SINCE FEDERATION...WHAT IS INVOLVED IS THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT. THE HEAALD BELIEVES THAT MR. FRASER NOW HAS A DUTY TO WITHDRAW HIS UNDERTAKING NOT TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO AN ELECTION. ... THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE FORCED BY ALL LEGAL MEANS TO ANSWER AT THE BAR OF THE PEOPLE. END QTE.

3. A CANBERRA TIMES APRIL 29 EDITORIAL ENTITLED - A QUESTION OF HONESTY - STATES: QTE WITH THE BEST WILL IN THE WORLD IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT THE REPEATED ASSURANCES OF THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. WHITLAM, THAT THE OPPOSITION; HAD INNER QTE FABRICATED END INNER QTE ALLEGATIONS INNER QTTE THAT THERE WAS SOME DIFFERENCE IN THE TONE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SENT TO HANOI AND SAIGON. END INNER QTE. THE SAD TRUTH IS THAT THERE ARE VERY SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO CABLES, WHOSE TEXTS ARE NOW PUBLISHED AND WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONFIRMED. THE UNAVOIDABLE INFERENCE IS THAT MR. WHITLAM, TO PUT IT CHARITABLY, AS MISLED THE PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA.

4. QTE. FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, ANY GOVERNMENT IS ENTITLED TO ITS BIASES, IN THIS CASE ITS SYMPATHY IS WITH THE COMMUNIST AIMS OF NORTH VIETNAM, BUT IT HAS THE OBLIGATION OF FULLY JUSTIFYING THIS TO THE PEOPLE WHOM IT REPRESENTS IN ITS DEALINGS WITH FOREIGN POWERS. MORE IMPORTANT STILL, IT SHOULD NOT RESORT TO CONCEALMENT OR DENIALS TO HIDE ITS BIAS. THE WORST OFFENSE A GOVERNMENT CAN BE GUILTY OF IS NOT THAT OF MAKING MISTAKES. IT IS THAT OF BEING DISHONEST TO THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED IT. END QTE.

5. THE APRIL 29 EDITORIAL IN THE AUSTRALIAN ENTITLED - WHITLAM CAUGHT IN HIS OWN TRIP - STATES: QTE. EDWARD GOUGH WHITLAM HAS BEEN CAUGHT OUT-EXPOSED AS A MAN WHO MISLED PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE WITH WHAT CAN MOST CHARITABLY BE DESCRIBED AS HALF-TRUTH.

6. QTE ...FURTHERMORE, IT IS NOW PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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AUSTRALIA'S HALF-HEARTED, DESULTORY TOO-LITTLE-TOO-LATE EFFORTS TO HELP CHILD AND ADULT REFUGEES WERE DICTATED NOT BY THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN RESCUING THEM BUT BY MR. WHITLAM'S DESIRE TO AVOID OFFENDING HANOI, OR TO PROMOTE AUSTRALIA POSITIVELY IN THE EYES OF NORTH VIETNAM AND THE PRG.

7. QTE. ...THE OPPOSITION HAS A POWERFUL WEAPON TO USE

AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND IF MR. WHITLAM IS CONCERNED  
ABOUT THE CRITICISM HE IS RECEIVING, HE HAS NO ONE TO  
BLAME BUT HIMSELF. END QTE.  
GREEN

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